

marc lathuillière  
& guardianes madre árbol  
*cometas*



*luces distantes*  
year IV · 2024

*“Why should people think with artefacts alone?  
Why not also with the air, the ground, mountains and streams,  
and other living beings?”*  
**Tim Ingold**, *Making – anthropology, archeology, art and architecture*,  
Routledge, 2013

*Tierracielo*  
kite, 1 m 25 x 11 m 30  
bamboo, second-hand ripstop canvas, thread, writing  
with Tim Ingold and the Guardianes Madre Árbol



# Cometas

*Kite making and flying, participatory writing, co-learning, photography and video*

*Cometas* (Kites) is a project in which winds, humans and their forests are united in a common creation-resistance approach. Linking various players in Europe and Colombia together, it involves eco-designing kites bearing poems, and flying them to mark areas of deforestation and climate stress.

The first kite and flagship of this process, *Tierracielo*, was designed at the beginning of 2024: cut at Marc Lathuilière's Paris studio, its recycled ripstop sail was sent to Aberdeen, where anthropologist **Tim Ingold** wrote on it a poem entitled *I am a Kite*, composed especially for the project. The sail then travelled to the Bajo Atrato, a region in northern Colombia where, since 2020, the artist has been accompanying an Afro-Métis community, La Madre Unión, in its pacifist struggle against forced displacement and deforestation (*Luces Distantes* project). Its environmental guardians, the **Guardianes Madre Árbol**, replied to the British author's poem by intertwining their own, *Somos la lluvia y el polvo* (We Are the Rain and the Dust). Forming a counterpoint song, this double text is emblematic of a process in which, during workshops, collective writing and the sharing of eco-design knowledge led to the completion of *Tierracielo*. The subsequent performance flights over the threatened jungle were documented by video and photographs. The whole approach echoes Tim Ingold's reflections on kite-flying: for him, it is a choreography activating a link between the earth and the sky; a 'thought in movement' in which one can experience that everything is an environment animated by air and breathing.

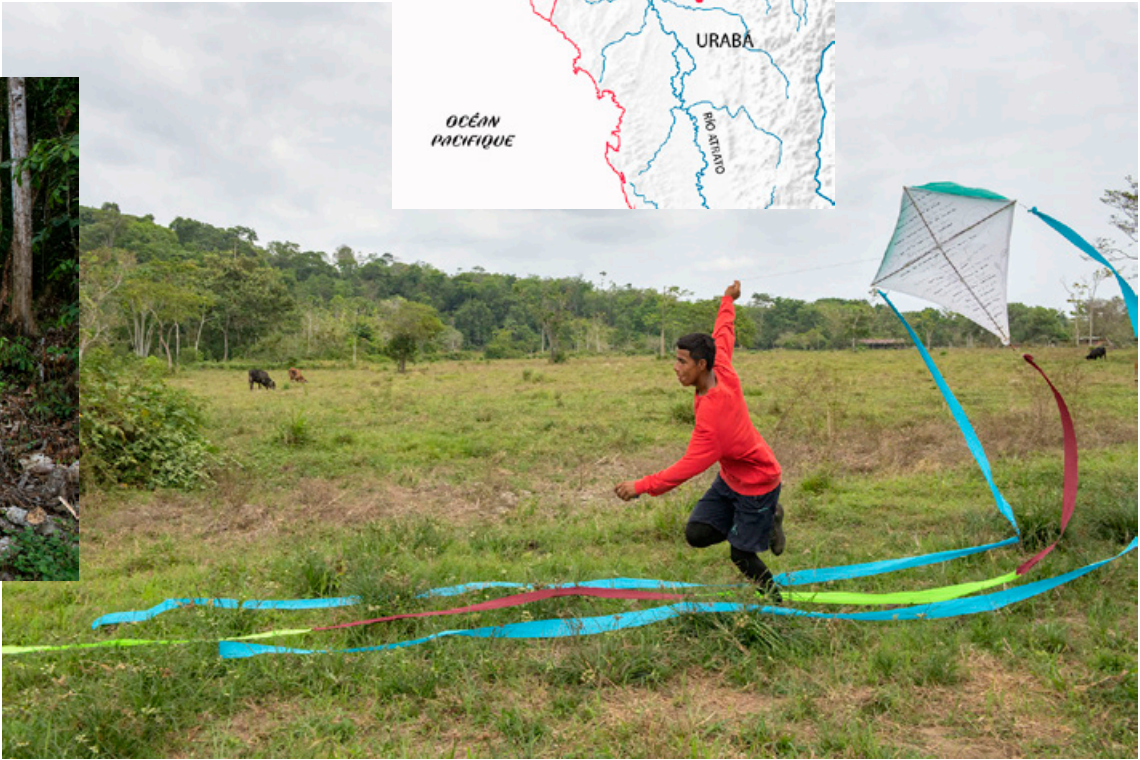
In a later stage, the project will involve taking this process - from the designing of the kites to possibly the singing of the texts - to other communities facing environmental challenges: primarily in the same region, the Bajo Atrato, where Afro-descendants and indigenous people are victims of a conflict leading to the dispossession of their lands, but also with other partners, locally and in Europe. *Cometa*, in Spanish, means both 'comet' and 'kite'. It is indeed about raising the alarm through a poetics of wind.



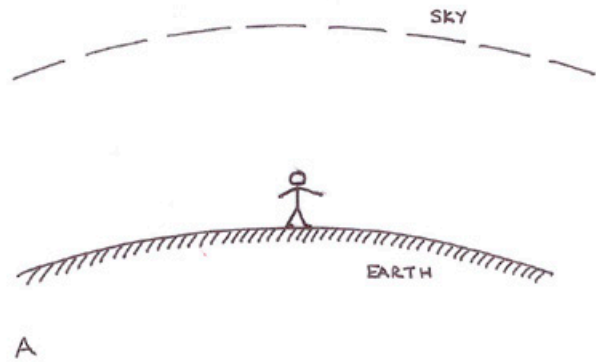
La Madre Unión, 2024



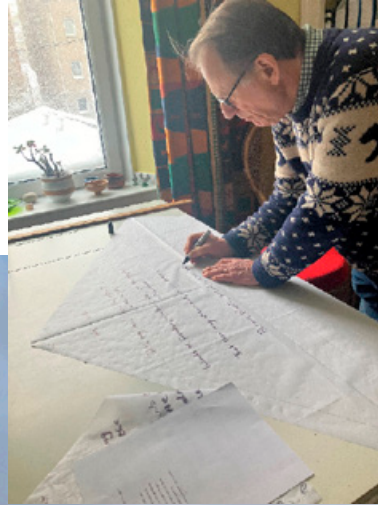
*Deforestation Front*  
La Madre Unión, 2024



*Rolando's Flight*  
La Madre Unión, 2024



Drawing by Tim Ingold



Writing on *Tlerracielo*  
 Tim Ingold, Aberdeen, 01.2024  
 Hector Perez and the Guardianes Madre Árbol  
 La Madre Unión 02.2024

*Diomedes's Flight*  
 La Madre Unión, 2024

## *Tierracielo*

Texts by Tim Ingold (English) and *the Guardianes Madre Árbol*  
(translated from Spanish into English)

I am a kite.

*We are the dust and the rain*

With my sail, I sing the descant of the winds;

*We are the tree shaken by the wind*

Winds of freedom, breathing life into the peoples of the world,

*Our swirls are the dance of the conflict*

That they may dream and, in their dreams,

*Which has brought us to that fertility*

Become plants, spreading their roots

*Becoming plants, spreading our roots.*

Throughout the earth and, in the sky, their leaves

*Breath, sun on our bark, showers in our mouth,*

Which, whipped up by the wind like ocean waves,

*We grow.*

On land as on the sea, promise an abundant harvest.

*We are the running water of the hill*

The landscape, once desolate, comes to life again.

*We are creepers, armadillo, yucca, plantain,*

Scattered birds take wing, trees laugh in the breeze,

*The ara scattering the seeds,*

And people sing of comfort, and of joy.

*Fly, kite, sing us!*

The people are my chorus, and

*Inflated by our struggle*

their song is my refrain.

*We are pollen*

I am a kite.

*Of peace.*



*Hector's Flight*  
2024



*Yover, Primero Diamante*  
Photography, 2024, various sizes



Kite workshops and kite flying, La Madre Unión, 2024









Nueva Esperanza Humanitarian Zone, Jiguamiandó, Bajo Atrato  
Right: rush of the future video *Becoming Wind*, 2024

Previous page:  
*Flying with Tim (Earth, Hector, Sky)*  
Photography, 2024, various sizes

## Annex I *Luces Distantes*

*Cometas* is a new development in the wider context of *Luces Distantes* (Distant Enlightenments): a creation-resistance alliance weaved since 2020 between artist Marc Lathuillière and Afro-descendant communities of the Bajo Atrato, northern Colombia, a region of deforestation and conflict over land control with illegal armed groups. The artistic process deliberately integrates three vital elements: visibilization of their non-violent struggle, protection of their lives, empowerment of their structures. This is especially the case at La Madre Unión, a Biodiversity Zone where, starting in 2022, the artist has been supporting the creation and development of an association of environmental guardians, the Guardianes Madre Árbol. Initially centred on participative photography and writing, the project has evolved towards process art: the co-signing with the Guardianes of a short film supported by Cnap (National center for visual arts, France) and AM Art Films, and an exchange of dream-poems on pillows between authors from Paris and La Madre Unión. With renewed support from Cnap, the project was exhibited at the Rencontres d'Arles in 2023, co-curated by Pascal Beausse, and at Poush in Paris in early 2024. Shortlisted by the jury of the Earth Photo competition organised by Forestry England, it will feature in its exhibition at the Royal Geographic Society in the summer of 2024.

### */ Links*

#### **Ser Guardianes Madre Árbol (Becoming Guardians of Mother Tree)**

Video HD, 8 :34, with the support of Cnap and AM Art, 2023

<https://vimeo.com/852958800>

#### ***Luces Distantes* project, 2020-2024**

[https://www.lathuilliere.com/p/Luces\\_distantes-m\\_lathuilliere\\_gb-v3.pdf](https://www.lathuilliere.com/p/Luces_distantes-m_lathuilliere_gb-v3.pdf)



Logo of the *Guardianes Madre Árbol*  
Graphic design Nicolas Balaine, 2021



*Guardianes, Cometas, Árbol*  
La Madre Unión, 2024

## Annex II *biography*

Versatile artist Marc Lathuillière has developed since 2004 a deconstructive and participative approach to photography. Shaped by his studies in Political Sciences, his works often raise decolonial issues, exploring the representation of globalized societies in their relationship to time and environment. Interventions in the images and in their reading, installations, performances and writings are used to probe cultural boundaries as well as the limits of representation. At the origin of this approach, his main series, *Musée national*, has seen him shooting the portrait of a thousand French people wearing the same mask for 15 years.

His work has been shown extensively both in France and internationally: Royal Geographic Society in London (2024), Rencontres d'Arles and Fondation Iberê Camaego in Porto Alegre (2023), FRAC Auvergne in Clermont-Ferrand (2022), Sorbonne ArtGallery (2020), Bangkok Photo and Photoszene Cologne (2018), Le Creux de l'enfer art center (Thiers) at the Lyon Biennale, La Friche La Belle de Mai in Marseille, Paris Photo, the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) and Strasbourg Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (2017), Museum Siam in Bangkok (2011) and Palais de Tokyo (2004). He was awarded the Support for contemporary documentary photography by Cnap (Center for national for visual arts, France) and the Innovation grant by Diagonale Paris-Saclay, and has been selected into the Earth Photo2024 competition as well as into the national commission *Radioscopie de la France* of the BnF and the French Ministry of Culture.

Also involved in writing, Lathuillière enjoys collaborating with researchers and authors. He has organized exhibitions with Michel Houellebecq and Marc Augé, both having written on his work, and has started a collaboration with British anthropologist Tim Ingold. His work is featured in collections such as those of the BnF, the Neufilze OBC Bank, the French Museum of Photography, the Vera Michalski collection and the FRAC Auvergne.

### */ Links*

#### **CV and portfolio**

<https://www.lathuilliere.com/en/about/>

« **Border Dancer** », video portrait, Amaury Voslion, AM Art Films

<https://www.amartfilms.com/fr/films/tandem/border-dancer-1542.html>

**instagram** lathuillieremarc



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